

## REGISTER OF DEEDS

Brown County



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CATHY LINDSAY WILLIQUETTE CPM  
Register of Deeds

September 30, 2009

Senator Fred Risser  
Members of the committee on Ethics Reform and Government Operations

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 206 on behalf of the Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association and Wisconsin Electronic Recording Council.

The proposed changes outlined in SB 206 are fairly insignificant and pose no financial impact to our customers and constituents. Basically, SB 206 provides needed "clean-up" language relating to real estate documents along with some minor changes to correct out dated statutory language.

### Margin requirements

Current statute dictates margin requirements for all four sides of the first page of each document and the top margin of subsequent pages. This bill clarifies the side and bottom margins of each additional page of a document are at least 0.25 inches which is the current requirement for the first page.

### Conveyances of Mineral Rights

Directs the register of deeds to record all conveyances of mineral interest in the index maintained in 59.43(9) which is the official index for all other conveyance documents. This measure would eliminate the requirement to maintain a separate index.

### Conveyances – Failure to Conform

This bill provides that any document recorded electronically is properly indexed in a public index maintained by the register of deeds and shall be considered recorded even if the electronic document does not satisfy all of the requirements set forth in the statutes for recording. A similar provision in s. 59.43 applies to paper documents.

### Authority to reject entire group of related documents

This bill gives the register of deeds the authority to reject batches of related documents that are sent electronically. This is current practice today with documents sent by mail or submitted in person. This practice keeps related documents, all of which need to be recorded together, together. Without clear statutory authority to reject documents, the register is liable and the best interests of the submitter are in jeopardy.

### Declaration of Trust and Amendments

Ties the fee to purchase a copy of a declaration of trust and amendment of a declaration of trust to the fees set in s. 59.43(2)(b) which governs all other real estate copies in the register of deeds office.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy Williquette".  
Cathy Williquette  
Brown County Register of Deeds  
Member Wisconsin Electronic Recording Council